



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND  
6183 BLACKHAWK ROAD  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21010-5424

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

24 MAY 2004

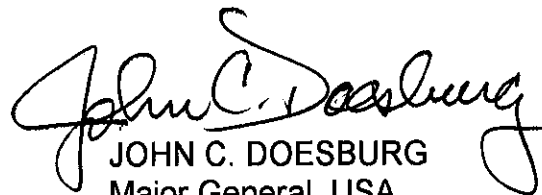
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**MEMORANDUM FOR RDECOM EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS**

**SUBJECT: Memorial Day 2004 RDECOM Safety Message**

1. Memorial Day was proclaimed a holiday on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan as a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. This holiday is a time to reflect on the memories of those who have died to protect our way of life. This year, Memorial Day is especially poignant due to our recent losses in the global war on terrorism.
2. As we mark the beginning of summer with this holiday, we should remember our fallen patriots and their families. We must also strive to prevent needless suffering as a result of preventable accidents. We must endeavor to protect our soldiers and families from common injuries that tend to occur during the months of summer. Not only are we responsible for our own safety, we must aid our friends and families in managing the risks associated with summer recreation and festivities.
3. Risk assessment techniques implemented at work can also be used at home. We need to be especially watchful this summer to prevent accidents and injuries associated with recreational activities, such as boating and swimming. Also, be careful when performing projects at home, such as working with ladders or machinery. Heat injuries are also common this time of year, so try to plan outdoor projects during cooler periods and drink plenty of water.
4. Every year we needlessly lose soldiers and civilian employees to automobile accidents. Three major contributing factors in these losses are alcohol use, driving without seat belts, and excessive speed. Please be careful, and look out for each other this summer.

***Be Safe! - Make It Home***

  
JOHN C. DOESBURG  
Major General, USA  
Commanding